

the rate of healing of fractures were studied in 7 series (1 control series) of experiments on 106 rabbits and 24 dogs. It was found that the injection of 70 per cent and 50 per cent alcohol solutions at the site of the fracture causes complete necrosis of all tissues in the area; a 25 per cent solution slows down the regenerative processes and a 10-15 per cent solution has favorable effects and causes no pathological changes in the tissues. During a clinical trial (343 patients, 15 to 60 years of age, with a variety of fractures) it was established that most favorable effects are obtained when a 10-15 per cent solution is introduced on 1-4 occasions. The amount used at each occasion is 25-80 ml. depending on site of fracture. In a control group of 302 patients, the block was not performed and as a result the healing of fractures took much longer with correspondingly greater loss of working time. (*Kravchenko, S. I.: Alcohol-Novocaine Block as Method of Acceleration of Bone Union, Vestn. Khir. 79: 97, 1957.*)

BARBITURATE FOR OBSTETRICS

The thiobarbiturate Buthalitone was given during the second stage of labor and photometric determinations of the barbiturate content in the serum of mothers and of the new born children were done. Under the assumption that polyvidone, which does not pass the placental barrier, may combine with the narcotic and thus prevent the latter from passing

through the placenta, the barbiturate was dissolved in 25 per cent polyvidone. This solution was used in 14 patients, whereas 11 patients received an aqueous solution of the barbiturate. No differences could be found in the two groups. Barbiturate could be detected in the umbilical vein blood as early as 50 seconds after injection in the mother. A complete blood level equilibrium between mother and child was not observed. The hypothesis is presented that the newborn organism may be able to detoxify barbiturates at a faster rate. (*Dordelmann, P.: The Influence of Polyvidone on Barbiturate Anesthesia in Obstetrics, Anaesthetist 7: 268 (Sept.) 1958.*)

PROMETHAZINE Results of administration of promethazine during labor in 5,000 patients is reviewed. Conclusions indicate that promethazine potentiated the action of meperidine, reducing the necessary dosage of the narcotic. Tranquillizing effects were prominent; the course of labor was not adversely affected. The fetal respiratory center apparently benefited by the reduced dosage of meperidine. (*Hobbs, F. S., and Carroll, J. J.: Use of Promethazine (Phenergan) as Sedative During Labor, Canad. M. A. J. 79: 822 (Nov. 15) 1958.*)

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